

Spencer, and rural towns like it, deserve to be honored and recognized for their numerous contributions to our Nation. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the Town of Spencer, NY, as it celebrates the 200th anniversary of its founding.

**ARENT FOX LEGEND CELEBRATES
A HALF-CENTURY OF PRAC-
TICING LAW**

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the career and good works of my friend, David Osnos, who will celebrate 50 years of practicing law with Arent Fox PLLC on July 9. I was privileged to be his law partner when I worked at the firm of Arent Fox before becoming a Member of Congress.

David Osnos has been at the center of many of the major decisions regarding the growth and development of our Nation's Capital over the last 50 years. His advice has been sought out by the movers and shakers of the Washington business world.

David Osnos met Abe Pollin in 1958 and became his general counsel. The two often refer to each other as "brothers." Together, they teamed up to change the face of Washington by acquiring sports teams, building the Verizon Center, and working on many other projects. Osnos also serves as the chief lawyer to another great Washington success story—Jim Clark of the Clark Construction Group.

Pollin and Clark are just a few examples of those who have worked with Osnos to transform Washington, D.C., from simply a government town into a vibrant cultural and business center. His many good works and his contributions to the development of this great city have made him a legend in the Washington, D.C., legal and business community.

A true Arent Fox "lifer," Osnos joined the firm in 1956 upon graduating from Harvard Law School. He has been the heart and soul of the firm for decades, and his work in Washington has mirrored the growth and development of this great city—and Arent Fox's commitment to the city.

Osnos served as chairman of the firm's executive committee for 20 years. In that capacity, he participated in much of the development and growth of downtown D.C. and ensured that the law firm's participation in the civic life of the city was unparalleled. Since joining Arent Fox as its seventh lawyer a half-century ago, Osnos has contributed to the growth of the now 265-attorney firm.

Always a strong supporter of nonprofit community organizations and devoted to ensuring that Arent Fox was a leading provider of pro bono services, Osnos created a culture of excellence in both "lawyering" and community service. He has continued to play that role since stepping down as chairman of the firm. Today he is revered as one of Arent Fox's senior statesmen.

Mr. Speaker, David Osnos has touched our community with his legal brilliance, his high ethical standards and integrity, and his kind, gentle nature, which has enabled him to be effective as a force for change and action. He

has contributed immensely to the legal community, to the District of Columbia, and to our civic life. I am honored to be his friend and to offer him my warmest congratulations on this wonderful milestone in his life, the life of one of D.C.'s finest law firms, and the life of our community.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO BRITTANY
LANG**

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superior performance of 20-year old Brittany Lang, during the Wegmans Ladies Professional Golf Association Tour.

Ms. Lang, a resident of McKinney, TX, was a runner-up in the U.S. Women's Open as an amateur a year ago. On Sunday, June 25, 2006, she briefly held the lead at the Wegmans LPGA tournament. Lang shot a 71 and tied for third after starting the day one shot off the lead. This was her first top 3 finish and her second top 10 finish of the 10 events she has competed in thus far in her career.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I stand here today to honor Brittany Lang for her achievements on the golf course. She serves as an example of athletic excellence to the young women of our community. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

**ESSAY BY BREISA BAKER FOR
THE NATIONAL HISTORY DAY
COMPETITION IN KENTUCKY**

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I commend my Colleagues to the attached essay, *The Blessed Broken School*, by Breisa Baker. Miss Baker is a student at Spencer County Middle School. Her essay placed 2nd in the National History Day Competition in Kentucky.

I had the privilege of meeting Miss Baker and her family during a recent visit to Washington, DC.

**THE BLESSED BROKEN SCHOOL
(By Breisa Baker)**

Segregation and integration are two words that played a big part in southern schools. The story of Ruby Bridges gives us a vivid picture of both words. Ruby Bridges played an important role in history through integration by taking a stand when she went to a segregated school in Louisiana.

Racial Segregation was challenged with a case in 1896 called *Plessy v. Ferguson* which took place in Louisiana. (Marilyn Miller, *Words That Built A Nation*) In this case, a black man found a vacant seat in the coach section on the train and decided to sit there. A white man came in demanding that the seat be his. This brought about a separation of blacks and whites. Because of this case, segregation carried over into the schools.

Written into the 14th Amendment of this case are laws permitting, and even requiring blacks to be separated from white people. These laws do not necessarily imply the infe-

riority of either race to the other. The most common instance of this is connected with the establishment of separate schools for white and "colored" children. The words "separate but equal" originated from this case.

It was the law in 17 southern and border states that African American children and white children attend separate public schools. All these states justified their policy by saying that black and white schools were "separate but equal."

Integration is the process of opening a group, community, place, or organization to all, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, or social class. The court case *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* ruled that racial discrimination in public education was unconstitutional and all provisions of federal, state or local law requiring or permitting such discrimination must yield to this principle.

In 1954, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) challenged the "separate but equal" doctrine at the elementary school level. The NAACP argued before the Supreme Court that children in all white schools received a better education than children in all black schools. In May of 1954, the courts agreed and outlawed racial segregation in public schools. Because of the *Brown v. Board* decision, black and white children, as well as children of all other races and ethnicities, today attend the same public schools. This is where the story of Ruby Bridges begins.

Ruby Bridges was born on September 8, 1954 in Tylertown, Mississippi into a very poor family. Ruby was, and still is a hero to American citizens. Of course, neither the Bridges family, nor Ruby, had any clue that she was going to end the war of separation of blacks and whites. Ruby would become a part of American history by being brave and walking into an all white school.

Ruby's parents worked hard to provide for her, but there were many nights that there was nothing to eat for dinner. At the age of 4, Ruby and her family moved to New Orleans, Louisiana, where her parents were able to get better jobs. Ruby's family was poor financially because her dad worked as a janitor, and her mom scrubbed the floors in a bank at night.

Americans did not treat African Americans as equals. Black children and white children attended different schools, which were segregated. The schools for black children were not as good as the schools for white children.

A federal judge in New Orleans said the city had to obey the law, *Brown vs. Board*, and in 1960 the judge ordered six year old Ruby Bridges to attend first grade at William Franz Elementary School. No black child had ever stepped foot upon the ground of the entirely white school. She would be the only black child there.

Ruby's family was scared once they had found out that Ruby was going to be sent to William Franz Elementary School. "I took a test along with all the other kindergarteners at my school during the summer found out that I had been selected to start first grade at William Franz Elementary School." The whole family was praying for strength and courage to get through any 'trouble' as a result of the desegregation ruling. Both of her parents were proud that their little daughter had been chosen for such an important event in American history. Maybe there was another reason why Ruby was chosen to carry the burden of being made fun of by all those people. Little Ruby wasn't the only one that was carrying the burden on her shoulders. There were three other little children in New Orleans being sent to another school because of the desegregation law. Ruby stood out the most because she was by herself and the other children had each other.